

was only 42.7% of capacity. These numbers are representative of all parking along the complete study area and demonstrate that the amount of parking available is sufficient to meet the parking needs of the area.

Field observations concluded that traffic queues develop along NC 194 through Newland due to the existence of left turning traffic between NC 181 and Old Toe River Road. Left turns onto Old Toe River Road from NC 194 were also found to delay traffic due to the lack of left turn lanes on NC 194. In general, where exclusive turn lanes are not provided, turning traffic causes vehicular queues which leads to increased levels of accidents, motorist's delays and traffic congestion.

#### Recommendations:

The MTEAP, in consultation with the Division and Area Traffic Engineers, has developed the following recommendations for the town of Newland to reduce traffic congestion and increase the overall capacity of NC 194 without widening.

- Resurface and Restripe NC 194 to accommodate a three lane section with a center two-way left turn lane.

NC 194 should be resurfaced and restriped to provide a three lane section (Figure 2). This new cross-section will allow a two-way left turn lane to be provided as well as exclusive left turn lanes at its intersections with NC 181 and Old Toe River Road. This three lane section can be accommodated by using the existing cross-section and will enhance safety by reducing left turn conflicts on NC 194. However, it will be necessary to modify the existing angle parking to parallel parking to make this change.

Exclusive left turn lanes at the intersections will improve operations and safety by reducing delays caused by left turning vehicles. Furthermore, the proposed back-to-back alignment of the left turn lanes will increase the visibility of left turning motorists which will provide additional safety benefits. Again, based on our field survey this recommendation can be easily implemented within the existing 48 feet of paved cross-section.

- Change Angle Parking to Parallel Parking Along NC 194 between Old Toe River Road to Mitchell Street.

There are currently 28 perpendicular on-street parking spaces on the western side of NC 194 between Mitchell Street and Old Toe River Road. We suggest that the current perpendicular parking spaces be restriped as parallel spaces. During our study, vehicles entering and exiting these parking spaces appeared to have difficulties. With perpendicular parking, motorists are often unable to see oncoming traffic